

The Home of Alternative Energy

Idaho is serious about renewable energy. The gem state is a perfect testing ground for renewable energy technologies, and already alternative energy manufacturing companies are moving in to tap Idaho's outstanding business climate. This is not surprising, considering the state boasts a variety of elements that make it a viable laboratory and manufacturing center for the next step in power generation. Two of those elements include the Idaho National Laboratory and Idaho's rank as #2 in the nation for patents per capita and manufacturing investment. Combined with Idaho having the third lowest energy costs and being fifth best in long-term employment growth, it's no wonder that Idaho's alternative energy manufacturing base is on the rise.

The Future of Energy

Idaho is home to many companies and university research institutions focused on additional research areas such as fuel cells, low-power batteries, electric car technologies, kinetic energy capture, biomass, and new alternative fuels.

Nordic Windpower, located in Pocatello, Idaho shipped three wind turbines to Rocha, Uruguay in 2009. This was the first shipment of the company's two-bladed turbines destined for community and distributed wind projects in North and South America.

Idaho is positioned to be the leader of alternative energy manufacturing in America. So take a look, and see everything our great state has to offer.

History

Alternative energy has been a part of Idaho long before it became main stream. For more than 100 years, Idaho has used its abundant geothermal potential as a 100% clean source of energy. In 1892, the nation's first district heating system was established in Boise, a system that is still in use today. By the 1970's, five district heating systems had been established in Boise and Twin Falls along with a geothermal power plant pilot project in the Raft River area. Today, these systems not only provide heat to buildings, but also provide for recreation, greenhouses and aquaculture.

The importance of alternative energy has become a part of the Idaho psyche. It's a part of who we are as Idahoans.

The Future of Research and Education

As one of the most innovative states in the nation, Idaho consistently ranks high in patents issued per capita by the U.S. Patent Trademark Office (currently we're number 2). Private industry drives this innovation, and is supported by universities and the Idaho National Lab, which in turn provide the intellectual capital to keep the alternative energy industry moving forward. Idaho is helping to develop the future of alternative energy, and here are just a few of the initiatives companies will be able to tap.

Idaho National Laboratory

Renewable energy resources are playing an increasingly important role in the global quest for energy sources that have smaller carbon footprints. INL serves as the country's lead research institution for carbon-free nuclear power, and is pioneering work in virtually all other forms of sustainable energy. The lab's Bioenergy Program focuses on establishing a dependable, high-quality supply of biomass feedstock to support the production of cellulose-based ethanol. INL also develops the tools needed to tap the potential of conventional and engineered geothermal resources, conducts ongoing hydropower research to further diversify the nation's energy supply, and works to advance the development and integration of wind energy resources. www.inl.gov

Boise State University

Boise State University is proud to be one of six Wind Application Centers in the nation supporting Wind Powering America's Wind for Schools program. The Boise State College of Engineering has been involved in wind energy research since 2002, partnering with the U.S. Department of Energy, Wind Powering America, Bonneville Power Administration, and many other governmental and private organizations. <http://coen.boisestate.edu/WindEnergy/research.asp>

Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering

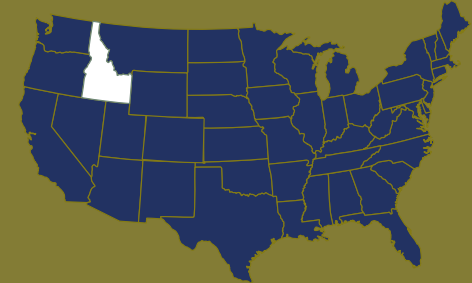
Idaho State University has established an Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering (INSE) as a collaborative entity with the University of Idaho and Boise State University. Under the INSE's administrative umbrella, the three universities jointly focus on nuclear science and engineering education at the combined Idaho Falls campus coordinated by the Idaho National Laboratory. <http://www.isu.edu/departments/inse/index.html>

College of Southern Idaho

Two new programs for the alternative and renewable energy industry will be implemented Fall Semester 2009: Environmental Technology and Wind Energy Technician. There is a specific need for wind turbine technicians to satisfy the need of growing wind power generation and manufacturing projects. The Environmental Technology program provides a broader curriculum in the development of a skill set to position someone for a variety of jobs that are emerging in the rapidly expanding green collar economy. <http://www.csi.edu/wind/>

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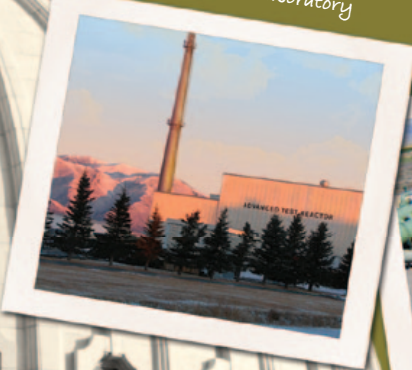
Your natural resource



Solar Panels atop Idaho Power Building



Idaho National Laboratory



Geothermal Side Heat Exchangers

The Idaho State Capitol Building is the only one in the country heated with geothermal energy.



INL Bioenergy Research Team



Installation of Geothermal Power at the College of Southern Idaho

Idaho National Laboratory
Wind Energy Research



Idaho State University
Idaho Accelerator Center

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Renewable Energy
www.commerce.idaho.gov

The Strategic Business Advantage

Combining access to key international markets, a strong and motivated workforce and some of the lowest overall business costs in the United States, Idaho wants to be your partner in business. Idaho-based businesses prosper by taking advantage of our close proximity to key alternative energy markets. Through a balanced mix of personal income, sales, property and corporate taxes, Idaho makes sure we provide a stable base to fund public services without unfairly burdening any sector. We offer multiple financial incentive and business tax credit programs that are designed to enhance overall productivity and long-term profits. The Gem State is near the top in virtually all indicators of business and economic vitality. Here a just a few strategic advantages Idaho provides to help renewable energy manufacturing companies with their bottom line.

Economic Stability

Starting, expanding or relocating a business carries a certain amount of risk and unknown factors. Locating in Idaho offers stability and one less item in the risk column on your spreadsheet. Idaho ended the current fiscal year with a balanced budget and with its financial house in order. As our State Treasurer put it “our...manner of fiscal government allows our citizens to benefit, sometimes in unseen ways, from the stability this style of leadership provides. We pay our bills, on time and as promised.” Truly, Idaho has gained a well-deserved national reputation for responsible financial management. The

State consistently gets top marks from nationwide financial rating services, and our state and local government debt per capita is the lowest in the nation. That is a direct result of a safe, sound and cautious approach to management that keeps Idaho ahead of the economic curve. With all of the uncertainty in the marketplace, you can place your trust in Idaho.

Incentives

Idaho offers a wide range of lucrative financial incentives and tax credits. The Idaho Business Advantage Program offers companies that invest a minimum of \$500,000 in new facilities and create at least 10 new jobs an enhanced tax credit of 62.5% of tax liability in any one year, a new jobs tax credit of up to \$3,000 per job, a 2.5% real property improvement tax credit and a 25% sales tax rebate on construction materials

“We are pleased to have selected Idaho as the location for our new businesses. We believe that Idaho is the best location in terms of cost, resources, labor and government support.” The combination of tax incentives, financial support for infrastructure improvements around the facilities, and grants to fund training of new employees has made Idaho, “...a very attractive place for us to expand our business.”



Dustin Shindo-Chairman, Founder and CEO of Hoku Solar

for the new facilities. In addition, respective county commissioners may also authorize a full or partial property tax exemption. To obtain a full list of our financial and tax services, please visit www.commerce.idaho.gov/business/incentives.aspx.

Workforce Development

Companies in Idaho are able to tap into a wealth of educated, high-skilled workers. Idaho’s colleges and universities actively work with the private sector to create programs that will educate the “green collar” employees the alternative energy sector demands. In addition, the Idaho Department of Labor provides Workforce Development training grants to offset training costs. The program is tailored to your specific company needs and designed to develop skill sets for your precise requirements. Financial reimbursements of up to \$3,000 per employee are available to eligible companies to cover the cost of training a new employee or retaining one facing permanent layoff.

Utility Green Construction Grants

Idaho’s utility companies are eager to work with new and existing companies to make energy costs less of a headache. Here is a quick look at what our three major providers have to offer.

Avista

As one of the greenest utilities with some of the most competitive rates in the country, Avista offers a wide range of energy efficiency incentives to help your business further reduce operating costs. Whether you’re planning a large, custom project or a small, standard project, they can help. Their staff of professional engineers and program managers is available to walk you through every step of the way. For more information, visit www.everylittlebit.com.

Rocky Mountain Power

Rocky Mountain Power realizes it costs a lot to run a business and so they want to help their customers save on their energy expenses. They offer numerous

energy efficiency services for new construction and retrofit projects to qualifying commercial, industrial and irrigation customers. In addition, Rocky Mountain Power partners with their business customers in Idaho to help them save energy and money.

Idaho Power

At Idaho Power, they work hard to bring you low-cost, reliable energy sources while balancing present and future energy needs. By enrolling in one of their energy efficiency programs or using one of their many services, you can reduce energy consumption and save on your monthly bill.

Idaho Power’s commercial and industrial customers have the potential to achieve significant savings through efficient energy use. Earn incentives up to \$100,000 per site, per year for qualifying energy-saving improvements to commercial or industrial buildings. Eligible projects cover lighting, air conditioning systems, plug loads and more.

Where does Idaho Measure Up?

So how does Idaho measure up compared to other states? Here are just a few of our rankings:

#2 Lowest Energy Costs: Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

Most Improved State for Employing Energy Efficiency: American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy

#2 Patents Per Capita: Forbes.com, May 2009

“No end in sight for Idaho’s growth:” USA Today

#3 America’s Best States for Alternative Energy-Geothermal: Forbes.com, July 2008

Overall Business Costs

Economy.com ranks Idaho the second lowest state in the West in overall costs of doing business.

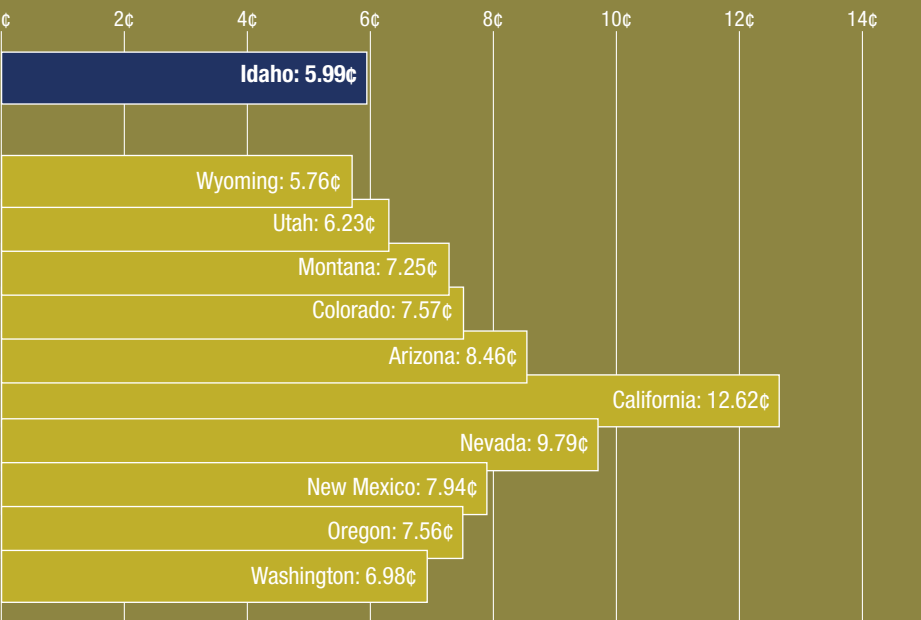
HIGHEST

- California
- Colorado
- Arizona/Washington
- Nevada
- Oregon/Montana
- Utah
- New Mexico
- Idaho
- Wyoming

LOWEST

Electricity Costs

A major source of Idaho’s electricity is low-cost hydropower. As part of the Bonneville Power Administration’s northwest power distribution grid, industrial electric rates are lower than most major cities in the nation and about half that of many western cities.



Annual Industrial Electricity Costs Average Rate (Cents per Kilowatt Hour) Source: Energy Information Administration, May 2009

“We started with a map of the United States and we ended up in Idaho. Idaho Falls is an ideal location. From top down there was cooperation, and it carried through from the governor’s office right on down to the mayor’s office.”



Robert Poyser-Vice President of Areva

Wind Power Project, Hagerman



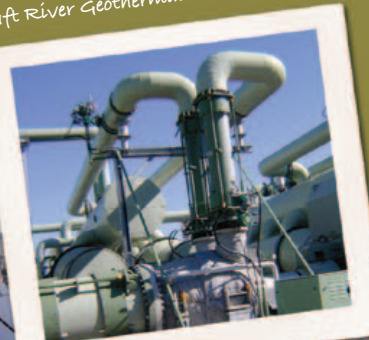
Biomass Wood Chips



Hot Springs Wind Project



Raft River Geothermal Ormat Turbine



Banner Bank Building

